

THE IDENTITY OF CUNURIA CASIQUIARENSIS (EUPHORBIACEAE)  
AND A RANGE EXTENSION

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When Croizat (1945) described "Cunuria (?) casiquiarensis," a euphorbiaceous tree from Amazonian Venezuela, he was uncertain of the proper generic assignment, but stated that "Cunuria is suggested by the intangibles of habit, and the characters of the foliage, but the inflorescence is somewhat unconventional . . . ." Baldwin & Schultes (1947) excluded it from Cunuria, stating that it suggests Pogonophora Miers ex Benthams, but were unable to make a certain generic placement in the absence of staminate flowers. Jablonski (1967) accepted this assignment with reservation, placing Cunuria casiquiarensis in synonymy under Pogonophora schomburgkiana Miers ex Benthams, the only species of Pogonophora known at that time. A second species of Pogonophora has since been described from West Africa (Letouzey, 1969).

I have recently examined the holotype and an isotype of Cunuria casiquiarensis. The leaves are similar in shape, texture, and venation to those of Pogonophora schomburgkiana, but the secondary veins of Pogonophora are much more prominent. However, C. casiquiarensis differs from P. schomburgkiana in a number of important characters. The fruits of the latter are obovoid, have a smooth surface, and upon dehiscence leave an awl-shaped columella and a saucer-shaped persistent calyx, whereas those of C. casiquiarensis are more nearly globose, have a somewhat roughened surface, and upon dehiscence leave a thin columella tipped by three short lateral wings (which do indeed sometimes drop off thus making the columella appear awl-shaped) and an extremely abbreviated calyx that is not at all saucer-shaped. The fruits of C. casiquiarensis are borne on peculiar thickened, elongated, striate, somewhat clavate pedicels that are frequently curved, while those of P. schomburgkiana are on much shorter pedicels or are nearly sessile. Most importantly, C. casiquiarensis produces two seeds per locule, while Pogonophora produces only one, thus indicating that Croizat's species belongs to either subfamily Phyllanthoideae or subfamily Oldfieldioideae, following the most recent classification of the Euphorbiaceae (Webster, 1975), and is not at all closely related to either Cunuria Baill. in the Crotonoideae or to Pogonophora in the Acalyphoideae.

Indeed, in all characters Cunuria casiquiarensis is a perfect match for the plant usually known as Richeria loranthoides (Kl.) Muell. Arg. As pointed out by Webster (1975; in Webster & Huft, in prep.), however, this species does not belong to Richeria, which is in the Phyllanthoideae, but constitutes instead the monotypic

genus Podocalyx Kl., which belongs in the Oldfieldioideae. The full synonymy of this species is as follows:

PODOCALYX LORANTHOIDES Kl., Arch. Naturgesch. 7:202. 1841; London J. Bot. 2:52. 1843. TYPE: In the region of the junction of the Orinoco and the Rio Negro, Schomburgk 978 (B, not seen, probably destroyed). Richeria loranthoides (Kl.) Muell. Arg. in DC. Prodr. 15(2):496. 1866.

Cunuria casiquiarensis Croizat, J. Arnold Arbor. 26:192. 1945. TYPE: Venezuela: Amazonas: Alto Casiquiare, Capihuara, alt. 120 m, 29 May 1942, Ll. Williams 15690 (Holotype: US! marked holotype in Croizat's hand, contrary to the implication of the protologue that the holotype is at A; no specimens were found at A; isotype: F!).

Podocalyx loranthoides is well known from Amazonian Venezuela and adjacent Brazil. The collection cited below extends the range of this genus to Peru.

PERU: Loreto: Requena, in Quebrada Parnayary just upstream from Genaro Herrera, 4°56'S, 73°44'W, 27 April 1981, MacRae & Ruiz 89 (F).

I am indebted to K. Barringer, W. Burger, M. Nee, and T. Plowman for comments on the manuscript.

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